

Heber Physician, 37, Dies After Accidental Shooting



Dr. Willard J. Draper ... Was co-owner of hospital in Heber.

Special to The Tribune

HEBER—A prominent Heber physician was fatally wounded early Wednesday when a gun he was cleaning discharged accidentally. The bullet struck him in the head.

Dr. Willard J. Draper, 37, died at 1:30 a.m. some three blocks from St. Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake City, where he was being taken for emergency treatment.

HIS WIFE, Helen, heard a shot shortly after midnight, and found Dr. Draper in the kitchen of their home. She said he had been cleaning the gun and it might have dropped to the floor and discharged.

Sheriff Floyd Witt, Wasatch County Attorney Harold Call and coroner A. D. Buys investigated.

Born Jan. 4, 1921, at Layton. Dr. Draper was a son of Charles H. and Nettie Harris Draper.

Reared at Layton and Sunset, he was graduated from Davis High School, Weber College, Brigham Young University and Northwestern School of Medicine, Chicago.

He interned at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City.

On June 13, 1945, he married Helen Martin in the Salt Lake Temple, Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints.

CO-OWNER OF the Nielson Memorial Hospital in Heber, he also was co-owner of the Mountain Spa, a member of the Lions Club, former member of the Wasatch County School Board and was chairman and smorgasbord cook for the county polio drives for several years.

He earned the first Eagle Scout badge award in the Sunset

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LDS Ward and later was scoutmaster there. He gained state recognition for his floral exhibits in county and state fairs and was a fisherman, hunter and sportsman.

SURVIVORS include his widow; two sons, a daughter, Martin Bery Draper, Diane Draper, Robert G. Draper, Heber; stepmother, Mrs. Pearl Draper, Salt Lake City; three brothers, a sister, Golden T. Draper, Nyssa, Ore.; Derral G. Draper, Sunset; Mrs. Clifford (Helen) Lowther, Nephi.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday noon in the Wasatch LDS Stake Tabernacle, with Ray Berg, bishop of the Heber Third LDS Ward, officiating. Friends may call at Olpin Mortuary, Heber, Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday prior to services. Burial will be in the Heber City Cemetery.

Services Held for Dr. W. J. Draper

Services were held on last Friday for Dr. W. J. Draper who died from an accidental bullet wound. The services were held in the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle and were under the direction of Bishop Ray J. Berg of the Heber Third Ward.

The services were as follows: prayer at mortuary, Howard Smith; prelude and postlude, Venola Cowley; vocal duet, "Until Tomorrow", Marjoria Provost and Roy Huffaker, accompanied by Ethel Watson; invocation, Bert Lindsay; Bishop Berg gave a brief history of Dr. Draper, of his ability and usefulness and expressed the appreciation of the family in the many kindnesses shown; speaker, George Reer, former bishop of Dr. Draper; vocal solo, "My Faith in Thee", Nada Nichols; speaker, Dr. N. F. Hicken of Salt Lake; speaker, Dr. Lloyd L. Cullimore of Provo who also read a memorial presentation from the medical profession; organ solo, Virginia Green; benediction, Dr. Raymond Green; graveside prayer, Dr. J. Fred Bushnell.

The floral offerings were cared for by the Third Ward Relief Society.

The Lions Club, Park City Elks Club, medical staff were honorary pallbearers. Pallbearers were George Gross, J. R. McKnight, Douglas Nielson, Kent Draper, Raymond Draper, Rex Lewis, Bob Hide and Farrell Payne. Ushers were Howard Eggleston, Kendall Cowley, David Montgomery and Donald Farnsworth.

Burial was in the Heber City Cemetery.